



## Minutes of the Committee Meeting at Sandbach School Chapel November 11, 2019

### **1. Welcome**

Joe Riley opened the meeting and each person introduced themselves Craig Howell, Selwyn Burgess, Syd Holland, Reg Dunning, Joe Riley, Gilbert Turner, Alan Clarke, Steve Hodgkinson, Mark Bowland, Geoff Piggott, Sarah Burns (Head Teacher), David Osborne (Business Manager) and Nathan Mitchell & James Hearn from the Head Boy Team

Jeff introduced Mark who had offered to assist in the social media technology, and he was welcomed to the committee

### **2. AGM Minutes**

Apart from some typos the minutes were agreed and will be published on the new website

### **3. London Reception 2020**

Jeff told the committee that the event was booked for March 28<sup>th</sup> and that the class of '74 was also using as a reunion. There were about 20 names so far stated as going, but Reg said only 4 had so far paid. There will be a guest speaker – Mark Ellis – and full publicity and invitation will go out this week.

### **3. Carol Service 19th Service 6:30 Old Hall afterwards**

The School Carol Service will be on 19<sup>th</sup> December at St Mary's Church. The invite will be posted on social media with drinks at the Old Hall following the service.

### **4. Website**

Jeff & Mark had been working on a new website, which was almost ready for launch. Mark had been the designer and builder. He explained it was designed so that it was easy to navigate and maintain. The committee were impressed and grateful and expressed their thanks to Mark.

The launch date will be next week (probably Thursday 21 November) and feature an interview with Sarah as first article.

Committee agreed that using this, Facebook and hopefully LinkedIn and Twitter will increase awareness. However, Reg and Jeff pointed out that the aim must be to convert the Facebook membership to paying members.

Mark offered to host the site for 6 months, after which time the committee will consider moving to a paid for hosting service.

### **5. AGM 2020**

Considerable discussion took place as to moving the AGM from October to June. The Annual Dinner has had a declining attendance. Despite year long advertising many people only consider in



September and are often double booked, on holiday or are worried about late night driving. Whilst historically the AGM has always been in the autumn term it was agreed this should not prevent the committee trying something different, although this did not guarantee that some people may still find driving an issue. However it was worth trying something to attract newer members and perhaps engage existing Sixth Form.

Sarah suggested that if we were to move to summer should we consider the same day as the big band "Viva Las Vegas". Jeff asked if it would be possible to reserve a block of seats so that we could potentially offer a joint ticket. This was something that could be considered. After further discussion it was proposed that the 2020 AGM should be on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> and start at around 2pm. It was also proposed that should the event be badly attended then the committee should also hold the autumn annual dinner.

Steve H Proposed and Craig seconded, and the motion was carried.

#### **6. Sponsorship of Sandbach Rugby Club Game**

Joe informed the committee that he has agreed to sponsor the Sandbach game versus Nuneaton on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 in the name of OSA. The sponsorship is to help celebrate his 86<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It includes lunch for 20 people and Joe asked for names of anyone who would like to attend. He said that he would prefer guests that support the OSA. , As well as Jeff, Steve, Reg, Syd, Geoff and Selwyn, Tony & Robin Astles, Roger Allan and Ben Staples

If anyone feels they would like to make a contribution Joe asked that this should rather be made to the Museum Fund.

#### **7. Treasurers Report**

Reg said that we are still waiting for a bill from the school for the dinner. IN terms of the museum fund he had received generous donations form Mike Roberts and David Johnson. Jeff & Steve confirmed that money would be paid form them shortly.

#### **8. AoB**

Craig said he had recruited 2 new members ( sending names to Jeff) both in their 20s -30s and asked what we could do to target the younger audience.

Nathan and James said that Twitter is the best form although this is more labour intensive. However, the webpage and Facebook if maintained should help. It was suggested that we target a weekly update

- Head Teacher
- Committee
- CCF
- head team monthly

Steve pointed out a couple of articles in the chronicle, including an MBE for Robert Barrow whom he will try to contact

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

January 13<sup>th</sup> January 6:30 PM